

Appl. No. 10/654,789

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A boot for use on a vehicle joint, said boot comprising:  
a body;  
a first end of said body having a tubular shape; and  
a second end of said body having a sealing area, said  
sealing area having ~~at least a first end surface with at least one sealing bead located on an end~~  
~~surface of said sealing area for sealing the joint and a second end surface with at least one sealing~~  
~~bead;~~  
wherein said second end surface is generally orthogonal to  
said first end surface.

Claims 2-4 Canceled

5. (Original) The boot of claim 1 further including an annular channel on an inside surface of said sealing area.
6. (Original) The boot of claim 1 wherein the boot is made of a flexible material.
7. (Original) The boot of claim 6 wherein said flexible material is a thermoplastic.

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8. (Currently Amended) A constant velocity joint assembly for a vehicle, said assembly comprising:
- a shaft;
  - a first joint part connected to said shaft;
  - a second joint part cooperable with said first joint part to transmit torque therebetween;
  - a boot having a first end contacting said shaft and a second end associated with said second joint part, said second end having a sealing area including at ~~least one sealing bead located on an end surface of said sealing area~~ a first end surface with at least one sealing bead and a second end surface with at least one sealing bead, wherein said second end surface is generally orthogonal to said first end surface; and
  - a boot cover having a first end affixable to said second joint part and a second end affixable to said second end of said boot and contacting the sealing beads of said first end surface and said second end surface of said sealing area of said second end of said boot.
9. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 8 wherein said boot cover is affixable to said second end of said boot by a crimping operation on ~~said~~ at least one of said sealing beads.

Claims 10-12 Canceled

13. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 8 further including an annular channel on an inside surface of said sealing area.

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14. (Currently Amended) A joint assembly, said assembly including:
- a shaft;
  - a first joint part connected to said shaft;
  - a second joint part cooperable with said first joint part to transmit torque therebetween;
- a boot having a first end contacting said shaft and a second end associated with said second joint part, said second end having a sealing area including a plurality of sealing beads wherein at least one of said plurality of sealing beads is located on [[an]] first end surface of said sealing area and a second of said plurality of sealing beads is located on a second end surface, wherein said second end surface is generally orthogonal to said first end surface; and
- a boot cover having a first end and a second end, said first end of said boot cover affixable to said second joint part and said second end of said boot cover affixable to said second end of said boot by a crimping operation between said plurality of sealing beads and said second end of said boot cover.

Claims 15 and 16 Canceled

17. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim ~~[[16]]~~ 14 further including an annular channel on an inside surface of said sealing area.
18. (Currently Amended) A boot for use between a shaft and a joint, said boot comprising:
- a first end contacting the shaft; and
  - a second end having a sealing area, said sealing area having a plurality of sealing beads wherein one of said sealing beads is located on [[an]] a first end surface of said sealing area and a second of said sealing beads is located on a second end surface of said sealing area, wherein said second end surface is generally orthogonal to said first end surface, said second end be affixable to the joint by performing a crimping operation between said sealing beads and the joint.

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19. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting a first and second joint part of a constant velocity joint, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a boot having a first end affixable to a shaft and a second end associated with said second joint part, said second end having a sealing area including at least one sealing bead located on [[an]] a first end surface of said sealing area and at least one sealing bead located on a second end surface, wherein said second end surface is generally orthogonal to said first end surface;

providing a boot cover having a first end and a second end;  
affixing said first end of said boot cover to said second

joint part; and

affixing said second end of said boot cover to said second end of said boot by performing a crimping operation on the at least one sealing beads of said first and second end surfaces of said sealing area.

20. Canceled.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for connecting first and second joint parts of a constant velocity joint, said method including the steps of:

providing a boot having a first end affixable to a shaft and a second end associated with the second joint part, said second end having a sealing area including a plurality of sealing beads wherein at least one of said sealing beads is located on [[an]] a first end surface of said sealing area and at least one of said sealing beads is located on a second end surface of said sealing area, wherein said second end surface is generally orthogonal to said first end surface;

providing a boot cover having a first end and a second end;  
affixing said first end of said boot cover to the second joint

part; and

affixing said second end of said boot cover to said second end of said boot by performing a crimping operation on said plurality of sealing beads.